Phone conversation of 11/3/74 taped for Lesar.

Re: confirming our previous talks

Harold & Jim

To phrase one of our publicity plans we would — in accordance with what I understand to be the defense teams wishes — like to interview Jimmy on his incarceration and before. In short, to give the American magazine audience an important feeling for James Earl Ray as a sensate human being, caught as he says, in a trap.

i.e. background, family feelings etc.

If this sounds feasible to you and Messrs. Fensterwald and Livingston, I must soon at least discuss it with you on these issues: ① asking Jimmy if this is agreeable with him ② arranging for your participation in the interview so as not to imperil any future judicial proceedings ③ the terms, financial and otherwise, for the interview — including that of exclusivity for Playboy of this sort of "human portrait" interview i.e. an interview on matters other than of direct public testimony.

for after sentencing, pleas, appeals, dismissal, if any, granting Jimmy's request

If, however, this seems impossible

a highly improbable, I would greatly appreciate learning this soon so that you could be spared my inquiries and entreaties.

Thanks for the consideration, and I must add that I will be available any time subsequent to this hearing for the interview.

Yrs.

Jim McElhaney

And good luck.

James Lawson
Kendall Weisberg

Personal

10/31/74

Harold, et al

I must return to Kansas City this afternoon to attend to my classes and some other business.

I'd greatly appreciate it if you might keep me abreast of the timing for the end of the hearing, of the progress of the possible interviews w/ Jimmy, and of any other pertinent information.

Call collect (816) 741-7742.

I'll return to Memphis <u>at any time</u> after today when you think the time is right to finalize whatever arrangements are to be made.

And again, thanks to all for your help and understanding.

Jim McC

Thanks
Tim
Mr. Lawton
Mr. Fenstermaker